

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please AMEND the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:

-- This application is based on and hereby claims priority to International Application No. PCT/JP2004/004337 filed on March 26, 2004; Japanese Application No. 2003-090859 filed on March 28, 2003; Japanese Application No. 2003-356211 filed on October 16, 2003; and Japanese Application 2003-357404 filed on October 17, 2003, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference. --

## IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification as amended below with replacement paragraphs shows added text with underlining and deleted text with strikethrough.

**Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 7, with the following paragraph:**

-- The fire-retardant styrenic resin composition according to ~~any one of [1] to [17]~~[5], wherein the component (A) is a rubber-modified ~~styrenic~~polystyrenic resin comprising a high cis polybutadiene containing the cis 1,4 bond in an amount of 90% by mole or more, and wherein the content (a) of a rubber-like polymer in the rubber-modified ~~polystyrenic~~styrenic resin is 3 to 15% by weight, the proportion (b) of solvent-insolubles in the rubber-modified polystyrenic resin is 10 to 30% by weight, the formula  $2.0 \leq [(b)/(a)] \leq 3.5$  is satisfied, and the rubber-like polymer dispersed in the rubber-modified ~~polystyrenic~~styrenic resin has an area-average particle size of 0.8 to 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$ , the swelling index of the rubber-modified ~~polystyrenic~~styrenic resin in toluene being 9.0 to 11.0. --

**Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 10, with the following paragraph:**

-- When the rubber-modified styrenic resin is a rubber-modified polystyrenic resin, the value ranges for the best balanced impact strength and fluidity of the resin composition attributable to the above-described effects are as follows; the content (a) of the rubber-like polymer in the rubber-modified ~~styrenic~~polystyrenic resin is 3 to 15% by weight; the proportion (b) of solvent-insolubles in the rubber-modified polystyrenic resin is 10 to 30% by weight;  $[(b)/(a)] \leq 3.5$ ; the area-average particle size of the rubber-like polymer dispersed in the rubber-modified polystyrenic resin is 0.3 to 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and the swelling index of the rubber-modified polystyrenic resin in toluene is 9.0 to 11.5. More preferably the content (a) of the rubber-like polymer in the rubber-modified polystyrenic resin is 4 to 10% by weight; the proportion (b) of solvent-insolubles in the rubber-modified polystyrenic resin is 15 to 26% by weight;  $2.0 \leq [(b)/(a)] \leq 3.5$ ; the area-average particle size of the rubber-like polymer dispersed in the rubber-modified polystyrenic resin is 0.8 to 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and the swelling index of the rubber-modified polystyrenic resin in toluene is 9.0 to 10.5. --

**Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 37, line 6, with the following paragraph:**

-- The inorganic fire retardants include aluminum hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, dolomite, hydrotalcite, calcium hydroxide, barium hydroxide, basic magnesium carbonate, zirconium hydroxide, hydrates of inorganic metallic compounds such as a hydrate of tin oxide, zinc borate, zinc metaborate, barium metaborate, zinc carbonate, magnesium carbonate, ~~moo-calcium~~, calcium carbonate, barium carbonate, magnesium oxide, molybdenum oxide, zirconium oxide, tin oxide and antimony oxide. They may be used either individually or in combination. Of these, the inorganic fire retardant is preferably selected from the group consisting of magnesium hydroxide, aluminum hydroxide, basic magnesium carbonate and hydrotalcite. --